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EXAMINER

CHEN, WENPENG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,515

Applicant(s)

COLLINS, ROGER

Examiner

Wenpeng Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 and 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-16, 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Examiner's responses to Applicant's remark

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 7/30/2003 with respect to all the pending claims have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner has thoroughly reviewed Applicant's arguments but firmly believes that the cited reference to reasonably and properly meet the amended claimed limitations.

Applicants' argument -- The Applicant's arguments, such as those with regard to Claims 1, 9, and 22, all base on one point that "there is no disclosure in Carr of identifying fields within an email message."

Examiner's response -- The Examiner does not agree with this conclusion. Carr teaches transferring messages through a network such as LAN and WAN as shown in Fig. 1. As pointed out in paper #6, a message transferred in a network is an email. The set of static, semi-static and dynamic fields is an email header. The fields that are inside an email are fields within an email.

Applicants are reminded that the Examiner is entitled to give the broadest reasonable interpretation to the language of the claims. The Examiner is not limited to Applicants' definition which is not specifically set forth in the claims. In re Tanaka et al., 193 USPQ 139, (CCPA) 1977. Unless the Applicant explicitly defines his "fields within an email" to distinguish his fields from Carr's fields, the Examiner considers Carr's fields to be Applicant's "fields within an email" within the broad meaning of the term. With the same reason, Carr also teaches a first email field and a second email field because Carr teaches static, semi-static and dynamic fields in an email.

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2. Applicant's arguments filed on 7/30/2003 with respect to Claim 13 are moot due to cancellation of Claim 13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 12, 14, 22 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carr (US patent 5,293,379 cited previously.)

a. For Claims 1 and 4-5, Carr teaches a method comprising:

-- identifying a first field and a second field within an electronic mail (mail) message; (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 46; Figs. 5-6; The data are identified as a set of static, semi-static and dynamic fields collected header fields that represents a collected first field and user data that represent a second field.)

-- applying a first set of code words to encode data in the first field; (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 46; Figs. 5-6; The set of static, semi-static and dynamic fields collected header fields that represents a collected first field is coded with header dictionary that has a first set of code words.)

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-- applying a second set of code words to encode data in the second field; (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 46; Figs. 5-6; The user data that represent a second field are coded with a user data dictionary that has a second set of code words.)

-- wherein the first field is an email header field and the second field is an email text field; (column 1, lines 39-47; Fig. 5; A message transferred in a network is an email. The set of static, semi-static and dynamic fields is an email header.)

-- wherein the first field is an address book field and the second field is an email message field. (column 1, lines 39-47; Fig. 5; A message transferred in a network is an email. Carr teaches that destination address and source address are included in the header data set. Therefore, the header is considered as an address book field.)

b. For Claims 9, 12, and 14, Carr teaches a method comprising:

-- generating a first code word table containing code words for a plurality of character strings found in a first electronic mail (email) message field; (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 46; Figs. 5-6; The generated header dictionary is the first code word table.)

-- generating a second code word table containing code words for a plurality of character strings found in a second email message field; (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 46; Figs. 5-6; The generated data dictionary is the second code word table.)

-- encoding character strings in the first field using the first code word table and character strings in the second field using the second code word table; (column 6, line 64 to column 9, line 4; Figs. 5-9)

-- wherein the first field is an email address field; (column 1, lines 39-47; Fig. 5; A message transferred in a network is an email. The set of static, semi-static and dynamic fields is

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an email header. Carr teaches that destination address and source address are included in the header data set in the static and semi-static fields. Therefore, the header part associated with the static and semi-static fields is considered as an address field.)

-- encoding the message further using one or more alternate compression techniques. ((1) column 7, lines 13-16: Compression techniques other than LZW can be used. (2) Fig. 6 also shows that user data of different protocols can be compressed with different data dictionaries. LZW with different data dictionaries is considered in general to be different compression techniques.)

c. With regard to Claims 22 and 25-26, Carr further teaches machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon to carry out the steps of Claims 22 and 25-26, the steps being discussed above. (column 4, lines 33-51)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-3, 10-11, 16, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr as applied to Claims 1, 9, and 22, and further in view of Unger et al. (US patent 5,991,713 cited previously.)

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Carr teaches the parental Claims 1, 9, 22. Carr further teaches that other string compression algorithms are also applicable in the method explained with Figs. 3-9, namely compressing header and data with different dictionaries. However, Carr does not teach explicitly that the code words are based on the frequency associated to the above claims.

Unger teaches a method for compressing a message. In the method, different types of data are coded with different dictionaries. (column 8, line 62 to column 9, line 14) The method comprises:

- generating for each dictionary a set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by the code words are found within the type of data, wherein character strings which are relatively more common within the type of data are represented by relatively shorter code words in the set of code words; (column 1, lines 39-46; column 2, lines 23-54; column 9, lines 39-54; Each data of a language and subject is associated with a dictionary. Shorter token is assigned to a word of high frequency.)

- initially performing a statistical analysis of character strings found in the type of data to determine a frequency of occurrence of each of the character strings; (To establish a dictionary based on frequency requires performing a statistical analysis of character strings in that type of data.)

- wherein one of the techniques comprises identifying strings in the first or second fields based on a location of the strings in a spell-check dictionary. (column 8, line 61 to column 9, line 54; column 11, lines 6-18; Figs. 8-9; step 210 of Fig. 8; A dictionary of common English words is a spell check dictionary. The numbers (or tokens) are the locations.)

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It is desirable to compress efficiently a text message. It is known in the art that Unger's dictionary can achieve a high degree of compression for each specific dictionary associated with a special language or subject. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to replace Carr's dictionaries with dictionaries developed with Unger's teaching for each of the header data and user data because this replacement improves compression efficiency. The combination thus teaches the following features:

- initially performing a statistical analysis of character strings found in the first email message field and the second email message field to determine a frequency of occurrence of each of the character strings;

- generating the first set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by the code words are found within the first field;

- generating the second set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by the code words are found within the second field;

- wherein character strings which are relatively more common within the first field are represented by relatively shorter code words in the first set of code words and character strings which are relatively more common within the second field are represented by relatively shorter code words in the second set of code words.

7. Claims 6-8, 15, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of Unger as discussed above, and further in view of Ackley (US patent 6,422,476 cited previously.)

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The combination of Carr and Unger teaches method and medium for compression of email text with dictionaries taught by Unger as discussed above. However, the combination does not teach the conversion associated with the he above-listed claims.

Ackley teaches a method for data compression in which

-- ASCII text is converted to a 6-bit character format; (column 4, lines 49-65; column 7, lines 24-53)

-- providing one or more 6-bit escape sequences indicating that code following the sequence represents data compressed using a particular compression technique; (codes 47-52 of Fig. 1 and Fig. 8; Codes 47-52 of Fig. 1 are the 6-bit escape codes, each initiating a particular compression technique.)

-- wherein relatively common characters are encoded using 6 bits and relatively uncommon characters are encoded using two successive sequences of 6 bits. (Fig. 4; For example, the common character such as ASCII code 65 (A) is assign a 6-bit 93i word A and the relatively uncommon character such as ASCII code 34 (*) is assign two 6-bit words: 93i word [S3} and 93i word B.)

It is desirable to compress more efficiently a text message that comprises mostly the full ASCII characters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to apply Ackley's teaching to the method taught by the combination of Carr and Unger, because with converting ASCII text to the 6-bit character format the overall combination improves compression efficiency.

Conclusion

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). The Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wenpeng Chen whose telephone number is 703 306-2796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on 703 308-7452. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications. TC 2600's customer service number is 703-306-0377.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305-4700.

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Wenpeng Chen
Examiner
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October 1, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wenpeng Chen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.